

## NEW THAW SECRETS STAND REVEALED

Evelyn Tells of Contract She Made to Have Marriage Annulled.

### AGREEMENT WAS NOT KEPT

Checks Given to Her by Mother-in-Law Never Were Honored.

New York, August 26.—Secrets hitherto unrevealed as to Evelyn Nesbit Thaw's relations with the family of her husband, Harry K. Thaw, were made public at a hearing on the young wife's bankruptcy before Referee Dexter more to-day.

Mrs. Thaw testified that Mrs. Mary Copley Thaw, her mother-in-law, contracted with her in 1907 or 1908 that, providing Evelyn should bring action to annul her marriage with Thaw she would receive \$15,000 in cash and \$1,000 a month for the rest of her life.

In compliance with this agreement she said that she had brought the suit for annulment and had received three checks for \$5,000 each.

"Can you tell why those checks have never been honored?" she was asked by Attorney Julius Offenbach, who represents creditors suing the young woman for silverware.

"No," replied the witness. "Have you ever endeavored to have them cashed?"

"Yes."

All the checks, she added, had later been turned over to Attorney John Kelley, her present counsel.

"What became of all the funds with which Mrs. Thaw has provided you?" asked the lawyer.

"Why, I just lived on them."

"When the lawyer inquired as to the contract with the elder Mrs. Thaw, the witness said:

"Yes, I did make such a contract with Mrs. Thaw, which made provision for me for the rest of my life."

The witness participated in several sharp clashes between counsel, and at one time turned to Lawyer Offenbach and said:

"You know I am an experienced witness."

"You bet you are," returned the lawyer. "You know it, and your record shows it."

The questioning as to the annulment contract went on.

"Have you the original contract in your possession?"

"Yes, it provided for an income for life of \$10,000 monthly and \$15,000 in cash, provided I sued for an annulment of my marriage to my husband."

"Did you bring this suit?"

The witness objected to this question on the ground that it might incriminate her, but before her objection could be registered she had answered "if."

A long wrangle followed, and the case adjourned.

## HEARS SENTENCE WITHOUT EMOTION

(Continued from First Page.)

A plea of guilty and be given a term of not more than three years in the penitentiary.

When Frank was brought into court to-day to hear his sentence pronounced, he reaffirmed to the judge his protestation of innocence. He heard his sentence without displaying the least emotion. Only a few persons were present. Frank's wife was hurrying to the courtroom, but did not arrive until after the prisoner was being taken back to the jail. She followed him to his cell, where she threw her arms about him and kissed him repeatedly.

Attorneys for Frank, in their motion for a new trial, set forth that the verdict was contrary to the evidence; that it was contrary to the law; and that the court, after overruling motion of the defense, allowed certain testimony which was relative to other crimes not mentioned in the bill of indictment. It is supposed that the latter claim refers to evidence of Frank's moral degeneracy.

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## FARMERS GATHER FOR CONVENTIONS

Tillers of the Soil and Their Wives Are Meeting in Raleigh.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Raleigh, N. C., August 26.—The North Carolina Farmer's Union convened here in annual session this morning, the morning session being open to the public. The attendance is one of the largest on record, and the farmers were welcomed by Mayor James I. Johnson. Governor Craig was to have had a word of welcome, but he was summoned to Asheville as a witness in a suit pending there.

Dr. H. C. Alexander, president of the union, responded to the words of welcome. The only other public feature was an address by A. O. Nelson, of Minnesota, who is especially prominent in the movement in that State for cooperative farming. He is at the head of the success of the experiments in making a specialty of cooperative life for the farmer, both as to home life and farming methods, with a special view to encouraging thriftiness and the elimination of the old mortgage system. He spoke in glowing terms of the success of the experiments and his associates have made, and advocated such co-operation by farmers everywhere. The union will be in session three days, the business being behind closed doors.

The North Carolina Farmer's convention is in session at the Agricultural and Mechanical College, and there is a three days' program that has much promise of special interest. The farmers were greeted and welcomed this morning by President D. H. Hill, of the college, and by Major W. A. Graham, Commissioner of Agriculture. President C. W. Spruill, of the convention, and Vice-President E. B. Moore, of Charlotte, responded, and a regular program of speakers and subjects dealing with farm problems was entered upon. Especially notable speakers were Dr. B. W. Kilgore, State agricultural chemist and director of the State experiment farms; Prof. C. L. Newman, of the college; Director C. B. Williams, of the experiment station; P. H. Mangum, Wake Forest; Dean C. H. Price, of the University of Ohio, and others. There are special programs for the next three days. The farmers are being entertained at the college, and the attendance is large.

The State convention of the farm homesteads of the State, under the special direction of Mrs. Charles McKimmon, also convened to-day. The women were welcomed by Major Graham, Commissioner of Agriculture, and the program for the day included special talks on many phases of housekeeping on the farm. The women will be in session through Thursday. Those from out of the State are being entertained at the Agricultural and Mechanical College, a dormitory being set aside for their use.

## KING GIVES VIEWS ON STATE TAXATION

Deals Broadly With Whole Subject and Submits Recommendations.

Former State Senator Floyd W. King, of Clifton Forge, who took a leading part in tax reform discussion in the Senate three years ago, has written a carefully prepared document on the broad subject of State taxation, in which he points out many evils and suggested remedies. Mr. King goes over the whole question in detail, and submits some observations which are calculated to attract attention. He says:

The question of State taxation is, to my mind, the most important thing that now confronts the public-spirited people of the Commonwealth. Upon one point all who have given to the subject any thought whatever are agreed—that is, that the present system is obsolete and inequitable. The evil different remedies have been suggested. Of the suggestions, segregation and a central board of equalization have been most prominently mentioned and most freely discussed. The work of Auditor C. Lee Moore in elucidating and furnishing an elaborate scheme by which the former might be put into operation, and the investigations and report of the recent Tax Commission with reference to the latter, have been invaluable to Virginia.

The writer believes firmly in the correctness of the theory of segregation, but a careful study of the tentative plan submitted by Mr. Moore has convinced me of two things:

(1) That the plan of segregation that he suggests is about as good as any that can be worked out without the aid of experience; and

(2) That it is absolutely impracticable by reason of enormous losses to so many counties and cities to put such a plan into operation.

Cannot Correct Evil. As to the suggestion of a central board of equalization, I am unable to see how it is possible to correct the evils that confront us. Besides, even if it might relieve existing inequalities to some extent, the objections to that method of doing so are so patent and numerous as to lead the thoughtful citizen to the conclusion that the end would not justify the means. I mention briefly one or two of the most glaring objections:

(1) The inability of a central board to fairly and impartially divide property in different parts of the State.

(2) Such a board could work at all only by having a standard of valuation, and it is impossible to arrive at a standard to the different sections of so great and versatile a State as Virginia.

(3) The location of both personal and real property is a factor in its valuation, and a central board could not properly estimate a turkey in the fields of Richmond has not the same value as if he were in the market in Richmond, nor has an acre of fertile land in the Sinking Creek Valley of Craig the same value as a barren acre in Henrico.

(4) It would create a needless enmity between the State authorities and the people who make up the various units of the State government. Taxation is the mailed hand of government, laid upon the friend. The reason for its exercise must appeal to those who feel it, and it should be guided by those closest sympathetic. An act of taxation from remote interests would not be kindly received. And so I might multiply objections to a central board of equalization, all of which would prove insurmountable obstacles in the road of legislation.

Must Reach Out Arm. The State, however, must have money. She must as a unit of sovereignty foster her people in every part of her domain, and as a mother must impartially care for all her children. If a county have more children than money, the education of those children by the State is inevitable. In every county is infested with more evildoers than another, the State should reach her arm of justice into that county and correct the erring. To do otherwise would mean disintegration. It will not

be safe.

Franchise Tax. The fifteenth item requires some explanation. Page 31 of the Auditor's report for 1912 shows that the public record corporations have paid to the State in franchise and other taxes and licenses \$1,123,180.53. It is proposed to eliminate this entirely, and relieving all other corporations of the State levy on all property to fix an income tax, justly proportioned, to yield \$1,250,000. This is a very conservative estimate, I think, and should result in a slight saving in the taxes of corporations.

The sixteenth item needs little explanation. The rapidly with which income returns are being increased fully justifies the figures.

The seventeenth item covers the county contribution to the State government. It does not depend upon assessment in the sense that the same assessment can be by any possibility be so juggled as to give the county an abundant revenue and the State but an unfair proportion. Under this plan, if the county gets hers, the State will get hers.

The eighteenth item is the contribution of the cities to the State in return for the elimination of the levy of .0035 on the real and personal property in the cities.

The counties and cities now contribute through their treasuries to the State treasury \$4,314,000. Of the above items of revenue, it would be safe to say that the following should be credited to county and city contributions to State revenue:

The capitation tax \$500,000  
The license tax \$500,000  
The liquor licenses \$600,000  
That portion of corporation tax now represented by levy \$500,000  
The 10% tax on receipts \$1,600,000

Total \$4,400,000  
It will be seen then that this proposed plan would result in a net saving of \$154,000 annually to the counties and cities of the State.

Shows How It Operates. The saving in individual counties and cities may be approximately, by taking the total assessment in the respective counties and cities, and ascertaining the amount that those assessments would yield in taxes at the present State levy of .0035, and comparing the several results with 10 per cent of the gross receipts of the same counties and cities. This will not be absolutely correct, because of delinquencies, but will serve to show in a general way the operation of the system. I will give a few illustrations, using the Auditor's figures for 1912.

The total assessed values on real and personal property in Clifton Forge were \$1,825,492, which, at the rate of .0035, would yield \$6,379.22. The gross receipts of the same city for 1912 were \$49,139. Ten per cent of this amount is \$4,913.90.

The total assessed values on real and personal property in Elizabeth City County for 1912 were \$5,741,723, which, at the rate of .0035, would yield \$19,841.03. The gross receipts of the same county for 1912 were \$128,909. Ten per cent of which would be \$12,890.90.

The total assessed values on real and personal property in Allegheny County in 1912 were \$28,909, which, at .0035, would yield \$11,508.32. The gross receipts of the same county for the same year were \$82,437.63. Ten per cent of which would be \$8,243.76.

These illustrations have been taken at random, and seem to indicate that the saving to counties and cities would be fairly well distributed.

As to Liquor Revenue. Should the State prohibit the manufacture and sale of liquor, it will under this proposed plan of raising revenue, lose not only the \$600,000, which she now receives as a State license, but will lose the \$1,000,000 of the city licenses now received. This loss would have to be made up by increasing the percentage on the incomes of cities and counties, or by increase of the license fees, by requiring towns to contribute to their incomes, or by some as yet, unsuggested measure, which the General Assembly will have to work out when the occasion demands.

It will be observed that under the proposed plan the cities will still be carrying a larger proportion of the burden of State taxation than the counties, but experience may help to equalize this. At any rate, the counties will have their incomes, and the cities will have their own necessary incomes at the expense of the State.

Aside from the saving which this proposed system will effect, the simplicity of its operation and the economy of its collection will, I think, appeal strongly to both the people and the officers of the State. The assessing and collecting side of the Auditor's office may be operated with a minimum force, and Mr. Moore's item of \$125,000 for collection of the State's revenues can be greatly reduced. Of course, the State will have to be permitted to all the books of the counties and cities, through traveling auditors, to be provided for the purpose, so that proper checks may be kept.

I have made no investigation of the constitutionality of this proposed system of State taxation, but if it is good for the people and good for the State, the people can very readily change the fundamental law, if necessary.

I offer this plan for the consideration of the thoughtful public, in the hope that out of all the suggestions that have been and may be made a wise and equitable tax may be evolved by the General Assembly.

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## News of Petersburg

Times-Dispatch Bureau, 5 Bollingbrook Street, (Telephone 1485)

Petersburg, Va., August 26.

Robert Cabanis, who was last night unanimously elected Mayor of the city of Petersburg by the two branches of the Council assembled in joint session, this morning took the oath of office and entered on his duties. Mr. Cabanis will serve for one year, that is, until his successor is elected by the people next spring, and assumes the office on September 1, for the full unexpired term of the late Mayor George Cameron, Jr.

At the joint session last night thirty-five of the thirty-six members of the two bodies were present, with William Koenig, president of the Board of Aldermen, presiding. The call for the meeting was read by the clerk, and the nominations for the mayoralty were in order. Councilman William R. McKenney, in a very graceful speech, in which high tribute was paid to the late Mayor George Cameron, Jr., nominated Robert Cabanis as his successor in the office of chief executive of the city, declaring him to be a man fully worthy of the honor and trust reposed in him by the people.

A large body of colored people of this city will go to Jamestown on Labor Day to celebrate the landing of the first cargo of their progenitors on Virginia soil in 1619.

General News Notes.

There is no mad-dog scare in Petersburg. Several dogs suspected of having rabies have been killed recently, but as far as reported only one person has been bitten, the little Crawford boy, who died last week of hydrophobia.

Master Early Jefferson Archer, aged fourteen years, son of W. J. Archer, died last night at his home on Fleet street, after a comparatively brief illness.

Pearl Bartley, colored, arrested several days ago on the charge of dispensing cocaine at her home, where some of the drug was found by the police, was discharged by the Police Justice this morning, the evidence being insufficient to convict.

Emmett Baxter has gone to Norfolk to live, having accepted a position with the Steel Company at Painter's Point.

William Green, colored, is under arrest here on the charge of stealing a watch, valued at \$30, and \$11 in money, from Robert Mills, colored, of Pulaski, while visiting here several days ago. Green sold the watch to another negro, from whom it was recovered.

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## NAMES OFFICIALS FROM CONGRESS

President Wilson Selects Men Drilled in School of Practical Politics.

Washington, August 26.—The selection by the President of Congressmen to become Governors of New York, New Jersey, and California, and the selection of a Senator to become Governor of the Philippines, makes it more apparent than ever that hereafter Congress is to be the great arena from which the nation's chief executive officials are to be drawn.

From this school of practical politics and every-day business the nation's chief executive officers are hereafter to be recruited.

When President Wilson selected the members of his Cabinet, the men who were to be the members of his official family for the next four years—he went to Congress for many of them. From his Secretary of the Interior he chose William B. Wilson, a man who had been closely identified with labor matters since his entry into the House; for his Secretary of State he chose William C. Brewster, who in his past was in the House from Nebraska; for the head of the Department of Commerce, named William C. Redfield, of New York, and Burleson, of Texas, for Postmaster General.

In this naming men who were either then serving in Congress or who had previously rendered service there, the President believed that he would find those who were not only practical politicians, but good business men as well. In these particulars he chose wisely, as recent events have shown.

The naming of Francis Burton Harrison to become Governor-General of the Philippines is another example of going to Congress for the right kind of men. Mr. Harrison's experience in the lower house of Congress, where he has had long extended acquaintance with the needs of the Philippine people, makes his selection most opportune. His schooling has been thorough, and there is probably not a man in the country to-day so well fitted to meet the requirements of the position to which he has just been assigned as the young millionaire Congressman from New York.

Another present appointee from the ranks of Congress is John W. Davis, named a short time ago to become Solicitor-General of the United States.

Mr. Davis' career in the House, where he was a member of the Judiciary Committee of that body, so eminently fitted him for judicial work that when President Wilson began to look around for a Solicitor-General, he at once saw that the West Virginia Congressman was the man he wanted.

While selections from the Senate are not so numerous as those from the House, there are many cases on record where nominations have been made from the upper body of Congress, although, for obvious reasons, Senators are not so anxious to leave their work as House members. A Senator knows that when he leaves the Senate it is quite improbable that he will ever come back, while, on the other hand, House members know that with a good record behind them they always have the Senate to look forward to as a future goal. However, this may be, many presidential appointees have been made from senatorial timber in the years gone by. Like the House, the Senate is a most excellent arena from which to choose governmental officials, and the Chief Executive is not slow to grasp this idea. Many of the best men now in the country's service have formerly served in Congress.

Pretty Morning Marriage.

This morning at 9 o'clock, at the home of the bride's parents on West Washington street, Miss Nellie M. Martin, the attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Martin, and Dean H. Burgess, son of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Burgess, of this city, were married. The wedding was a quiet, home event. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. George E. Booker, D. D., assisted by the Rev. W. H. Atwill, D. D., Miss Roberta Gresham, of Richmond, was maid of honor, and Edward A. Burgess, brother of the bridegroom, was best man.

Election of Bank Officers.

At a meeting to-day of the directors of the National Bank of Petersburg, J. A. Hartley was elected president, to succeed the late George Cameron, Jr. Mr. Hartley has been a director and vice-president of the bank for several years. Captain T. F. Heath was elected vice-president in place of Mr. Hartley, promoted to the presidency.

Annual Meeting.

The annual State convention of the Bar Association will meet at the Hotel in this city on September 13-15, and a large number of delegates is expected. Committees of the local bodies are now busy in securing homes for the delegates and making arrangements for their entertainment otherwise.

Handsome Present.

This afternoon at the ball park, Ben Spencer, the centredefender of the Petersburg club, was the recipient of a very handsome present—a chest of three dozen pieces of silver—from his teammates. In token not only of appreciation of his good playing, but of his recent